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Functions of the Farm Security Administration, War Food Administration

Authorization

The Farm Security Administration was created September 1, 1937, by Executive Order 7530, as an agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, replacing the Resettlement Administration. Its purpose is to help worthy low-income farmers help themselves toward better incomes and a better living. The program is primarily one of supervised credit suited to the needs and abilities of the individual family. Loans are made only to farmers who cannot get the credit they need on reasonable terms anywhere else.

The major phases of the program are rural rehabilitation and farm ownership. Rehabilitation loans are short-term operating loans to buy livestock, farming equipment, feed, seed, and other farming and family living needs. Forty-year farm-purchase loans, at 3 per cent interest, are made under terms of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to worthy tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers for the purchase of family-size farms. Under the G. I. Bill of Rights, qualified veterans of World War II also are eligible for these farm ownership loans. About 1,000,000 farm families have been aided by operating loans and 36,426 families have had loans approved for the purchase of family-type farms.

Rehabilitation loans are made on the basis of sound farm and home plans prepared by the borrowers with the advice and assistance of farm supervisors trained in agriculture and home supervisors trained in home economics, to make the best possible use of the families' resources of land, labor abilities, and capital.

FSA Supervisors then assist the families throughout the year in carrying out their plans by visits to the farm and home, as required. Local FSA offices are maintained to serve the needs of low-income farm families throughout the nation.

Functions as Related to Nutrition Activities

Primary Functions:

- (1) To assist borrower families to be better fed through adequate home production, conservation, and use of the right kinds and amounts of food by
 - a. Analyzing and planning individually with families their food needs and giving on-the-farm guidance and assistance in better methods of production, conservation, and use of food;
 - b. Loans to individual families which include funds to purchase livestock, farm and home equipment, seeds, fertilizer, etc., needed to produce an adequate supply of food for home use;
 - c. Assisting families to cooperate with others in owning equipment which they cannot afford to own individually, and using community facilities;
 - d. Assisting families to have more security on the land through better tenure arrangements.
- (2) Cooperate with other agencies and organizations in analyzing nutrition problems and in developing and carrying out nutrition programs.

Policy

Federal:

To formulate national policies and authorize procedures for program operations; to give technical and administrative assistance to regional offices. National policies are developed through a two-day exchange of ideas and experiences between local, state, regional, and national offices.

Regional:

- a. To administer a program based upon needs of low-income farm families in the region in conformance with national policies and procedures; to give training, supervision, and assistance to field personnel.

State and local:

- a. To administer a program based upon the specific needs of low-income farm families in the State under guidance of regional office;
- b. To cooperate with other related agencies in the State in analyzing the problems of farm people within the State and in developing and carrying out programs to meet these problems.

Media

- (1) Administrative and technical staffs at local, State, and regional and national levels.. County committees composed of three local farm citizens interested in the problems of low-income farm families who advise with the local supervisors.
- (2) Publications:
 - a. Leaflets giving general information on the Farm Security program;
 - b. Statistical reports of progress and accomplishments;
 - c. Training materials on program operations;
 - d. Technical subject-matter materials (generally adapted from materials of other agencies);
 - e. Conferences:
 - (1) Frequent training conferences of personnel;
 - (2) Group meetings of borrower families.

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